Agricultural delegations to foreign countires

2124. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of delegations from the Ministry of Agriculture and Department of Agricultural Research and Education sponsored to visit foreign countries, alongwith the size of delegations, the names of countries visited, during the last five years and the purpose thereof; and

(b) how much expenditure was incurred on the visits of these delegations, the schedule of stay in foreign countries and the allowances they received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Weevil menace to banana crop

2125. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka is one of the leading banana growing State and is blessed with good environment to grow banana;

(b) whether Weevil menace to banana crop in the State is causing serious threat to banana plantations; and

(c) if so, "the details of steps Government propose to take to contain/eradicate Weevil menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following are the steps taken by the Government:

(i) Application of systemic granular insecticides/nematicides to control banana weevil;

(ii) Organising field demonstration for educating farmers about

timely application of insecticide/nematicide; and

(iii) Dissemination of information on control of Weevil through mass media.

Declaring Indian agricultural products as pollution hazard

2126. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any instances of Indian Agricultural products having been declared as pollution hazard in foreign countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that products of multinational corporations are being promoted in India; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to safeguard the interests of Indian farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No such information has been received by the Government.

(b) and (c) Government, on its own, does not promote the products of multinational corporations. However, in order to ensure that the farmers of the country are not put to any hardship, the Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and is committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound levels, imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.

Benefit of credit linked subsidy scheme to farmers

2127. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of credit linked subsidy scheme for farmers; and

(b) how many small farmers availed of benefit from the scheme for